1869

MINUTES

OF THE

Forty-First Annual Session

OF THE

NORTH CAROLINA AND VIRGINIA

CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE,

HELD AT

O'KELLEY'S CHAPEL,

MORINGSVILLE, CHATHAM COUNTY, N. C

Oct., 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th, 1866.

DANVILLE, VIRGINIA,
JAMES RAINES, BOOK AND JOB PRINTER
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Southern Conference of Congregational Christian Churches.
HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 1956.

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MINUTES.

WEDNESDAY, October 10, 1866.

The North Carolina and Virginia Christian Conference, met with the Church at ORELLEY'S CHAPEL, Chatham Co., N. C., to-day, at 10 o'clock, A. M., and was called to order by Rev. *Sol. Apple*, President of last Session. The Roll of Conference was then read, and the following answered to their names, viz:

ELDERS.—*T. J. Fowler, Sol. Apple, Alfred Apple, Chastien Allen, J. W. Wellons, H. B. Hayes, J. I. Hobby, A. Iseley, J. N. Manning, E. W. Beale, J. N. Farrell, A. G. Anderson, P. W. Allen, R. G. Tinnen, W. S. Long, C. A. Apple, W. D. Moffit, C. A. Boon.*

LICENTIATES.—*J. W. Hatch, Jas. K. Gibson;* (About half of the Ministers belonging to Conference were present.)

LAYMEN.—*J. J. Turrentine, Austin Whitsitt, Josiah Atkins, J. M. Moring, W. G. Clemants, S. H. Turner, Thos. J. Haskins, S. A. Creech, Jas. Smith, J. Murry, Jno. Lynch, E. A. Moffit, J. E. Hayworth, Jas. Gilliam, J. L. Pugh, Robt. Maynard, Asa Klapp, R. J. Hatch, M. Murchison, Jacob Marshal, Hoz. Rudel, W. T. Walker, W. B. Lassatter, J. H. Blanch, M. D. Strowd, C. M. Lindsey, J. M. Smith, D. Thomas, N. Dicken, R. McIvor, I. N. Wicker, W. J. Long, Nasa Boon, W. Ellis, H. S. Johnson, J. C. Gunter, W. Gunter. W. S. Farrell, Jas. S. Masburn, J. J. Jenkins, Jno. Utley, David Bragg, H. C Dillard, S. J. Laurence, S. A. Johnson;* (not more than half the Churches were represented.)

A Quorum being present, the fact was announced, and Conference was opened with prayer by Rev. *A. Iseley.*

Rev. *Sol. Apple* was chosen President, and Rev. *T. J. Fowler*, Vice President.

On motion the standing Secretaay, Elder *J. N. Manning*, was allowed to select such assistant Secretaries as he thought proper. He selected *E. W. Beale*, and *C. A. Apple.*

The letters from the various Churches were then directed to be read.

On motion, Conference adjourned to 2 o'clock, P. M.

2 o'clock, P. M.

Conference convened, and was called to order by the President.

On motion, the delivery of the Address was defered until to-morrow, 11½ o'clock, A. M.

On motion, Rev. *W. B. Wellons*, of the E. Va. Christian Conference was invited to a seat in Conference, as a fraternal Messenger from the body of which he is a member. Elder *Wellons*, on taking his seat delivered an able and impressive address upon the wants of the Denomination and the acts of the last meeting of *General Convention of the Christian Church*, of which he is President, recommending the *Declaration of Principles, Improved Form of Government, and Directory for Religious Worship*, adopted by that body.

On motion, Rev. *W. B. Wellons* was unanimously requested to furnish a copy of his Address to be filed with the Records of Conference, with a view to future publication.

The Executive Committee of Conference reported, which was read, (see papers marked No. 1.) The Report was taken up by items, pending the discussion, Conference adjourned, to-morrow morning 9 o'clock; Religious services by Rev. *P. W. Allen.*

Thursday, October 11th, 9 o'clock, A. M.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment, Rev. *Sol. Apple* in the Chair.

Religious services by Rev. *A. G. Anderson.*

The Minutes of yesterday read and approved.

The President announced the following Committees, viz:

Character and Standing of the Ministry—*Jno. S. Turrentine, S. H. Turner, R. Maynard, M. Murchison, Jno. Lynch.*

Finance—*Jno. M. Moring, T. J. Haskins, A. Whitsitt.*

Sabbath Schools—*P. W. Allen, E. B. Beale, Alfred Apple.*

Ministerial Supply—*A. Iseley, A. G. Anderson, C. Allen, J. N. Farrell, R. G. Tinnen, R. J Hatch, E. A. Moffit, M. D. Strowd.*

Statistics—*H. B. Hayes, J. W. Hatch, J. W. Wellons.*

Religious Exercises—*T. J. Fowler, J. Atkins, Jno. M. Moring.*

TEMPERANCE—*C. A. Apple, J. N. Manning, J. W. Wellons.*

The pending question was then taken up—the Report of the Executive Committee.

The first item was, on motion, adopted.

The second item, in reference to the connection of Bro. *Bennett Ausley* with the factious organization effected by the late *W. N. Bragg*, was adopted after discussion; and on motion, Bro. *Ausley* was restored to fellowship in Conference.

The third item, in reference to the appointment of Delegates, *pro. tem.* in the *General Convention* in the place of absentees, was then taken up and adopted.

The fourth item, in reference to the aggravated case of Prof. *W. H. Doherty*, was, after some discussion, adopted; and the following resolution unanimously passed:

Resolved, That Elder *Wm. H. Doherty* be, and he is hereby solemnly and finally expelled from this Conference for falsehood, drunkenness and contumacy, and that this body will be held no longer responsible for any pretentions which he may make to the right of exercising the functions of a Gospel Minister.

Conference then listened to the delivery of the annual Address by Rev. *Sol. Apple*, one of the most interesting and instructive addresses ever delivered before this body. After which Conference adjourned to 2 o'clock, P.M.

2 O'CLOCK, P. M.

Conference called to order by the President.

On motion, Rev *Sol. Apple* was requested to furnish a copy of his address for publication and preservation. In connection with this motion, several addresses were delivered most cordially approving the sentiments contained in the Address.

The following was then adopted:

Resolved, That the Delegates appointed by this Conference to the *General Convention of the Christian Church*, which met at *Mt. Auburn* in May last, be respectfully requested to report the proceedings of that body, or at least their action therein, to Conference at its present session.

On motion, Rev. *W. B. Wellons*, President of the Convention, was requested to assist in the report called for in the above resolution.

Elder *Wellons*, after some appropriate and timely remarks, as an introduction to what followed, proceeded to lay before Conference the *Declaration of Principles*, *Form of Government*, and *Directory for Religious Worship*.

On motion, the papers were directed to be taken up by parts and read.

The *Declaration of Principles* was then read, and unanimously endorsed by Conference.

On motion, the remaining papers were laid upon the table and made the special order of to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock.

A petition was received from the Ministers and Churches in the *Deep River Valley*, asking permission to withdraw and form a seperate Conference.

On motion, the petition was granted and it was agreed that they might form a Conference composed of such Ministers and Churches as may choose to co-operate with them.

Adjourned to meet to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Religious services conducted by Rev. *H. B. Hayes*.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12TH, 9 O'CLOCK, A. M.

Conference called to order by the President, Prayer by Rev. *A. Apple*.

The Minutes of yesterday read and approved.

The special order being the consideration of the papers passed by the Convention, the *Form of Government* was taken up, read and unanimously endorsed by Conference.

Adjourned to 2 o'clock, P. M.

2 O'CLOCK, P. M.

Conference convened.

The pending question was taken up, the *Religious Directory*, read and also unanimously endorsed.

A motion was then made, and unanimously prevailed, to endorse the papers as a whole.

The *Declaration of Principles, Improved Form of Government, &c.* were warmly, and almost enthusiastically advoca-

ted by nearly every one who could gain the floor, and all thought the wants of the Denomination, in the matters proposed, were being fully met.

Rev. *J. W. Wellons, A. Whitsitt and W. T. Walker* were appointed a special Committee, to select a suitable place for the next meeting of Conference.

The following resolutions were introduced by Rev. *J. W. Wellons.*

Resolved, That———be a Committee to take into consideration and recommend to this body, a judicious plan for the organization of Christian Churches, composed of colored persons, and for the ordination of Deacons and Elders, and the licensing of colored men to officiate in the colored Churches.

On motion, the blank in the above resolution was filled with the names of *J. W. Wellons, A. G. Anderson and A. Iseley.*

On motion, Rev. *W. B. Wellons* was requested to aid the above Committee in the matter referred to them.

Conference adjourned, to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock, Religious services by Elder *J. N. Manning.*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13TH, 9 O'CLOCK A. M.

Conference met and was called to order by the President, prayer by *J. W. Wellons.*

Minutes of yesterday read and approved.

The seats of one Elder and two Laymen among the Delegates from this Conference to the Convention being vacant, an election was ordered, and the vacancies were filled, by the selection of Rev. *A. Apple* and Brothers. *J. S. Turrentine* and *H. Marshall.*

Contributions to the Conference fund were called for and read, (see paper marked A.

On motion, a Committee of three was appointed to consider the propriety of printing the Minutes of Conference. The Chair appointed *J. W. Wellons, S. H. Turner, J. S. Turrentine,* said Committee.

The Committee appointed in reference to colored Ministers and Churches, reported as follows.

REPORT.

We the Committee appointed to consider and report to Conference some judicious plan for the organization of Christian Churches among the colored people in the bounds of this Conference, would respecfully state that we are impressed with the responsibility devolving upon us as a Denomination to perform well our part in the moral training of the colored people, whose condition has been so suddenly changed. Many of them have long been under the influence and teaching of the Christians, and are yet connected with us; and unless we encourage them to continue this connection they will be brought under the influence of others. If the different Religious Denominations of the South do not make an effort to retain a moral and religious influence over the freedmen and women, they will naturally be brought under the influence of Northern white men, and ignorant and vicious colored preachers from the North who will sow the seeds of discord and discension among them, thus disturbing, and hindering the prosperity of both races.

We advise, that the colored people be encouraged in all neighborhoods, where they are not in a situation to form themselves into separate Churches, to continue to worship with the whites, just as they have heretofore done, and with the same privileges that they have heretofore enjoyed.

We would, however, advise that the colored people at once be encouraged where ever they can to secure themselves places of worship, and to have Churches organized, composed wholy of their own color.

These Churches should be organized by an Elder or Elders of the Christian Church upon the plan laid down in our Form of Government. We advise that all such Churches should procure white Ministers, until colored men come forward who have sufficient ability to receive ordination as Deacons and Elders.

We further advise that the organization of colored Churches, the ordination of Elders, and the licensing of Ministers be submitted to three Elders of this Conference,

who shall take the oversight of this work in the bounds of the Conference, and report and represent the condition and wants of the colored people to this body at its annual Sessions,

Respecfully,
J. W. WELLONS, *Chairman.*

The report was received and adopted, and Elders *J. W. Wellons, A. Iseley, and J. N. Manning* were appointed to take the oversight of the organization of colored Churches, and the ordination of colored Ministers, &c., referred to in the above report.

The Committee on Sabbath Schools made the following report, which was received and adopted:

REPORT.

Your Committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to report that they are pleased to learn that the subject has received some attention, by our brethren during the past year, but they are unable to assertain the number of Schools in opperation, or their condition.

It is evident that too little attention has been paid to this important subject heretofore. The benefits arising from well conducted Schools of this kind, are not easily estimated. Society is bettered, and the Church is blessed by them. The wisest statesmen, and the most pious and useful Ministers trace their first and best impressions to the Sabbath Schools.

We therefore, suggest that each Minister be required to deliver at each of his churches, an appropriate address on this subject, and cause to be organized in each congregation under his charge, an efficient Sabbath School, and that each Church be required to report the result of the same to the next annual session of this body.

Respectfully Submitted,
P. W. ALLEN, *Chairman.*

Conference adjourned to 2 o'clock, P. M.

2 O'CLOCK, P. M.

Conference convened, the President in the Chair.

The Committee on Temperance reported which, after several appropriate addresses, was received and adopted.

TEMPERANCE REPORT.

The Committee on Temperance beg leave to report—That a careful consideration of this question, in its present bearings, must lead every one to see the solemn and awfully important nature of the subject.

Excess, in whatever form it may exist, has ever been the bane of virtue, and the most effective agent in destroying the happiness and welfare of human society. The Conference should not, in the opinion of this Committee, indulge in mere languid sentiments and sickly resolutions, but should rise with a determined will, and an unfaltering energy to meet this foe of all that is good.

The demoralization engendered by the events of the past few years has almost suceeeded in sweeping away in many places every vestige of true morality and Christian integrity.

The Temperance cause, like almost all other benevolent institutions, was fearfully shaken by the storm. Every lover of his race must neccessarily be awakened. The time is come when, if we do not contend with this demon, we must, as Christians and Philanthropists, be utterly undone. In view of these things, many thinking men have already begun to cry out against the corruptions which have infected our people, and have crept even into the sanctuary of God.

Already an organization has been formed in Virginia, the land of Christian patriots, The "Friends of Temperance," have spread their banner to the breeze with Faith, Temperance, and Charity, inscribed on its living folds. Whatever may be the opinion of any in regard to the propriety of a temperance pledge, it cannot be but admitted that the cause is one which demands the utmost power of organized effort. The Committee thererefore recommend to the Ministry and Laity of this Conference, to give their best efforts and co-operation to the temperance movement, begun in Virginia, and which has already spread to this state. Not only so, but they do most earnestly enjoin upon clergy and

people to set their faces against the baleful influence of intoxicating drinks, and all those excesses which bring down the judgment of Heaven upon all those who defy the authority of Him, who is of too pure eyes to look upon sin with the least degree of allowance.

Respectfully Submitted,
C. A. APPLE, *Chairman.*

The following preamble and resoultion were offered by Elder *J. N. Manning:*

WHEREAS, It is absolutely necessary, in order that Ministers be able to discharge their sacred duties, and give themselves fully to their holy calling, that they be well supported; and whereas, it is impossible for Conference to support its superanuated Ministers, the widows and orphans of deceased Ministers, or to give aid and success to the various objects and projects claiming attention, or to defray the necessary expenses incurred in the various lines of duty, the employment of public servants, &c., without means; and, whereas, the General Convention of the Church needs funds for the Educational, Publishing Missionary and other enterprises of the Denomination, Therefore,

RESOLVED, That the members of the Churches composing this Conference be urged to greater liberality, and be instructed that it is their duty to make sacrifices, sometimes very great, whenever the wants of the Church are pressing, and to contribute freely and cheerfully to the support of the common cause.

RESOLVED, That the burdens of the Church ought to be equalized, so that each one may bear a just proportion, and all contribute to the cause of God, as the Lord hath prospered them. And to this end,

RESOLVED, FURTHER, That the Churches composing this Conference, be required at their first quarterly meeting after the adjournment of this body, to appoint a judicious Committee of three or five, who shall proceed to assess each Member of the Church, male and female, according to his or her ability, to pay an amount sufficient to meet all the ex-

penses of the Church; the amount thus assessed, to be paid quarterly to the Collector and Treasurer of the Church.

Resolved, Further, That any Church that fails to do her duty in this matter shall be censured therefor.

The above resolutions were discussed at some lenght, after which they were unanimously adopted.

The Committee on ministerial supplies made the following report, which was received and adopted:

Report.

The Committee on Ministerial supply report, that, after much labor, they are able to present the following as the arrangement agreed to between the Ministers and Churches: Your Committee rendered all the assistance they possibly could to both Ministers and Churches, and yet many Churches are unsupplied, and many Ministers unemployed, owing to the great difficulty of procuring a competent support for the Ministers.

J. W. Wellons will Minister to Mt. Auburn, Liberty Hill, Fuller's Chapel, Pope's Chapel, Good Hope and Oak Level.

J. N. Manniny to Shiloh, Va., Mt. Pisgah, Reeces and Pleasant Grov,e Va.

Alfred Apple to Midway and Union, Va.

W H. Franks to Pleasant Spring, Pleasant Hill, Utley's School House, and Smyrna.

H. B. Hayes to the Church in Newburn.

E. W. Beale to New Providence, Shallow Ford, Mt. Zion, *W. S. Long* will also preach at New Providence.

T. J. Fowler to Hank's Chapel, and O'kelleys Chapel, *J. W. Hatch* will also preach at Hanks.

J. W. Hatch to Marthia's Chapel.

Jno. N. Farrell to New Elam, Damascus, Antioch and Zion.

W. D. Moffitt to Mt. Bethel and Brown's Chapel.

C. A. Boon to Pleasant Union and Bethel.

A. G. Anderson to Concord.

A Iseley to Bethlehem, Hines' Apples, Salem Chapel and Ebenezer.

R. G. Tinnen to Bells, Christian Chapel, More Union, Wake Chapel, Shallow Well.

Respectfully Submitted,

A. ISELEY, *Chairman.*

The Committee on Character and Standing of the Ministry, made the following report:

Report.

The Committee on Character and Standing of the Ministers, respectfully report all the Ministers belonging to Conference in good standing, except *B. N. Hopkins,* who, from all they can learn, is exerting a bad influence in the Church committed to his charge.

Respectfully Summitted,

JNO. S. TURRENTINE, *Chairman.*

The Committee on Finance made their report, which was received and adopted. [See paper marked No. 13.]

The Report of the Committee appointed to locate Conference was indefinitely postponed.

The Committee on printing the Minutes was not adopted, and Conference ordered 500 copies to be printed.

On motion, *J. N. Manning and C. A. Apple* were appointed fraternal messengers to the E. Va. Christian Conference.

On motion, Brothers *A. Iseley, W. S. Long, and E. W. Beale,* were appointed the Conference Executive Committee for the ensuing year.

Conference then adjourned to half past seven o'clock.

7½ o'clock, P. M.

Conference convened.

On motion, Brothers *J. N. Farrell, J. W. Hatch, W. D. Moffit and E. W. Beale* were appointed fraternal messengers to the Deep River Christian Conference.

On motion Brother *Alfred Morıng* was invited to take a seat in Conference.

On motion, Brother J. *K. Gibson* was also appointed fraternal messenger to the Deep River Christian Conference.

The case of Rev. *B. N. Hopkins* was refered to a Committee of all the Elders present, as presented in the report of the Committee on Character and Standing of the Ministry. They made the following report which was received and adopted:

REPORT.

The Committee of Elders to whom was referred the report of the Committee on Character and Standing of the Ministry, beg leave to report that after a careful consideration of the case of Elder *B. N. Hopkins*, upon whom reflection is cast in the report, we recommend that he be suspended from his Ministerial functions until such time as his case can be more fully investigated by the Conference Executive Committee to which Committee we recommend that his case be referred.

Respectfully Submitted,
A. G. ANDERSON, *Chairman.*

Elder *Hopkins* was suspended, and his case referred to the Executive Committee.

On motion, the Brethren were invited to advance money for as many copies of the Annual Address as they thought they could probably sell. Many responded to the call. Conference directed that 400 copies should be printed and sold at cost; and the money returned to the Treasurer of Conference, except what might be sufficient to pay those who made advances.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED, That the thanks of this Conference are due, and are hereby tendered to the friends in this vicinity for the very kind and hospitable manner in which they have entertained the members of this body, during the present Session.

On motion, the Secretary was allowed to draw npon the Treasurer for an amount sufficient to publish the Minutes of Conference, and the Address delivered before Conference at its opening.

The Education Committee reported the names of several additions to the Biblical Class, and stated that the aspirants for Elders orders were making progress.

On motion, Rev. *W. D. Moffit* was appointed to deliver the next opening Address before Conference at the annual Meeting in 1867.

On motion, the Treasury of the Home Missionary Society was requested to place the books and Records of the Society in the hands of the Secretary of this Conference.

The Committee on Statistics reported as follows, which was received and adopted:

REPORT ON STATISTICS.

NAMES OF CHURCHES.	Received.	Removed.	Died.	Expelled.	Whole No.	NAMES of CHURCHES	Received.	Removed.	Died.	Expelled.	Whole No.
Union, N. C.					520	Antioch,					46
New Providence,					308	Moore Union,					19
Shallow Ford,					56	Zion,	3			1	111
Damascus,	1	3			72	Shallow Well,					100
New Elam,	1		1	1	60	O'kelley's Chapel,	3		4	4	122
Pleasant Grove, Va.	10			1	56	Harks Chapel,	11				156
Shiloh, Va.					10	Liberty Grove,					9
Mt. Pisgah,					30	Newbern,					184
Reece's Chapel,	9				35	Brown's,					24
Lebanon,					40	Pleasant Spring,				1	59
Pleasant Grove, N. C.	30		1	1	159	Wake Chapel,					108
Union, Va.					140	Pleasant Union,					22
Bethlehem,					100	Christian Chapel,	10	5	1	2	94
Apples' Chapel,					48	Utley's School House,	1			2	26
Hines' Chapel,					42	Midway,		1		3	66
Ebenezer,					54	Mt. Auburn,	18		2		151
Salem Chapel,					124	Liberty Hill,	9	2			62
Mt. Bethel,					50	Fuller's,					48
Browns' Chapel,					17	Popes Chapel,	11	6	2	4	162
Martha's Chapel,					16	Good Hope,					80
Pleasant Hill, Johnson,	4				34	Oak Level,					68
Parks' Cross Roads,					50	Concord,		1	2		42
Pleasant Ridge,					50	Mount Zion,					31
Shiloh, N. C.	4	1	1		76	New Bethel,	3			1	49
Shady Grove,					55	Smyrna,	4				20
Christian Union,					24	Park's Stand,					12
Acorn Ridge,					12						
							132	19	14	16	4259

The foregoing Statistics from the best data offered your Committee, believed to be correct.

H. B. HAYES, *Chairman.*

On motion, Conference adjourned to meet at such place as the Conference Executive Committee may select, on Tuesday before the second Sabbath in November 1867, at 2 o'clock P. M.

The addresses delivered during the sitting of Conference,

and the debates on the various subjects acted upon by the body, were mostly very interesting, and edifying, much zeal was manifested in the measures proposed for the prosperity of the Church, and all looked forward with hope to a bright and inviting future. Harmony and Brotherly Love characterized the whole of the proceedings, and every heart warmed at the thought of an early revival of our suspended enterprises. All felt that an active co-operation of the Ministry and Laity, and liberal contributions from all the Churches would ensure success in building again, the waste places of Zion. May Heaven favor the Sacred Cause.

SOL. APPLE, *President.*
T. J. FOWLER, *Vice President.*

J. N. MANNING, *Secretary,*
E. W. BEALE, } *Asst. Secretaries,*
C. A. APPLE, }

4257 Members —
28 Churches — 56

26
27
53

Teachers to assist } Teachers
Sabbaths " " } to call
The Lords Prayer } for ad
" Creed " } The Ser

The commandments } To be
The Golden Rule } for Re
The collections } Books

I am one of the committee
The money to pay for going
to Comprehend . 2/5
2/5
5/5d